



CITY OF DETROIT
LAW DEPARTMENT

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October 23, 2019

Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 80508
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request No. A19-07989, Dated September 17, 2019, Concerning City of Detroit Records Pertaining to Expenditures Relating to Visits from Federal Officials

Dear Ms. Best:

This letter serves as the City of Detroit's response to the above-referenced matter. Your request was received at the City of Detroit Law Department FOIA Section on September 18, 2019. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Your request seeks:

Records describing, authorizing or mentioning expenses or personnel assignments in response to or accommodation of visits from officials in the federal government between January 1, 2001 and the present.

Your request is denied pursuant to MCL 15.233(1), for the reason that it is too broadly written to describe the requested record sufficiently to enable City departments to find it. See Capitol Information Association v. Ann Arbor Police, 138 Mich. App. 655, 360 N.W.2d 262 (1984). With respect to expense reports, the Accounts Payable office advises that it does not track expense reports by purpose, such as accommodation of visits from federal officials. Instead, the Accounts Payable office requires a vendor name and PO number in order to provide the requested records. With respect to the remainder of your request, locating the requested records would require City personnel to search every office and cubicle and query every City employee, which is not administratively practical.

You can find the summary of the City of Detroit Freedom of Information Act procedures and guidelines at <https://detroitmi.gov/document/foia-procedures-and-guidelines> and <https://detroitmi.gov/how-do-i-request-document/foia-freedom-information-act-request>.

Please note that pursuant to Section 10 and 10a of the Act, MCL 15.240 and 15.240a, a person receiving a written denial of a request or receiving a letter to submit the labor costs may do one of the following:



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- 1) Submit a written appeal to the head of the public body denying the request. Such appeal, if submitted, should specifically state the word "appeal" and identify the reason or reasons for reversal of the disclosure denial. MCL 15.240(1)(a) and MCL 15.240a(1)(a); or
- 2) Commence an action in the circuit court to compel the disclosure of the public records within 180 days after the public body's denial of the request, MCL 15.240(1)(b), or 45 days after the public body's request for labor costs, MCL 15.240a(1)(b). If a court finds that the information withheld by a public body is not exempt from disclosure, or that the labor costs requested by the public body exceeds the amount permitted, the requesting party may receive the requested record and, at the discretion of the court, reasonable attorney fees and/or costs. MCL 15.240(6) and (7), and MCL 15.240a(6) and (7).

Very truly yours,

Karl Newman
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